

The Board of Education of LaHarpe Community School District #347 held a regular School Board meeting on 24 March 2026 in the Board room. President Dustin Detherage called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Roll call was answered by Blythe, Dowell, Burt, Detherage, Gebhardt, Walker and Deitrich. Superintendent Gladu, Principal Ryan Hopper and Board Secretary Liz McCarter was also in attendance.

Visitors in attendance: Laura Jones, Niki Pence, Julie Garrison, John Quigle, Brandon Miller

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A Moment of Silence was observed.

Public Comment: None

Business Items:

A motion was made by Dowell with a second by Detherage to approve the agenda for the March 24, 2026 Board Meeting. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 0 – Absent: Motion Carried: 7-0.

A motion was made by Dowell with a second by Blythe to adjourn to closed session at 6:01pm pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1) hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against a volunteer of the public body and 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (21) review of closed session minutes. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 0 – Absent: Motion Carried: 7-0.

A motion was made by Gebhardt with a second by Burt to approve the closed session minutes from February 17, 2026. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 0 – Absent: Motion Carried: 7-0.

A motion was made by Burt with a second by Detherage to approve Elizabeth McCarter's resignation as board recording secretary. Roll Call: Blythe- no; Burt – no; Detherage – no; Dowell – no; Gebhardt – no; Walker – no; Deitrich – no. Motion did not carry 0 – yay, 0 – abstain, 7 – nay, 0 – Absent: Motion did not carry: 0-7.

A motion was made by Burt with a second by Detherage to accept the recommendation of the uniform grievance procedure for Julie Garrison.

Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 0 – Absent: Motion Carried: 7-0.

A motion was made by Dowell with a second by Walker to accept the recommendation of the uniform grievance procedure for Janet Gladu.

Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 0 – Absent: Motion Carried: 7-0.

The Consent Agenda included the approval of the agenda, Open Meeting Minutes of the 20 January 2026 Regular Board Meeting of the LaHarpe CSD 347 School. Open Meeting Minutes of the 17 February 2026 Regular Board Meeting of the LaHarpe CSD 347 School. Open Meeting Minutes of the 11 March 2026 Special Board Meeting of the LaHarpe CSD 347 School. Financial Reports, Individual Fund Balances, Payment of Bills, action to delete verbatim closed session meeting records that were 18 months and older, FOIA Requests. To approve superintendent and finance manager to begin working on the 2026-2027 budget.

Fund	FY 2026
Education	\$2,396,765.72
Building	\$ 254,819.98
Debt Services	\$ 109,626.04
Transportation	\$ 100,173.41
IMRF	\$ 122,682.53
Capital Projects	\$4,000,000.00
Working Cash	\$ 47,591.34
TORT Immunity	\$ 191,452.87
Fire Prevention & Safety	\$ 224,922.84
Total	\$7,448,034.73
Comparison Year	
FY 2025	\$3,587,221.86
FY 2024	\$3,857,535.77
FY 2023	\$3,101,712.37
FY 2022	\$2,273,248.28
FY 2021	\$2,253,801.99
FY 2020	\$1,611,617.48

A motion was made by Dowell with a second by Gebhardt to approve the following items on the consent agenda: agenda, January 20, 2026 regular minutes version B. February 17, 2026 regular minutes, March 11, 2026 special meeting minutes, financial reports, individual fund balance reports, payment of bills, approval for superintendent and finance manager to begin working on the fiscal year 2027 budget, and the deletion of verbatim closed session recordings older than 18 months. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 0 – Absent: Motion Carried: 7-0.

CDARS: Superintendent Gladu stated that the CDARS deposit need to be renewed. She stated this is on a 13-week payback schedule. The next mature date is June 25, 2026. She stated to date, we have made \$33,316.78 in interest. She also stated we need to keep \$1.6 million out to pay for the cafeteria through June. Superintendent Gladu stated that she recommends reinvesting \$2.3 million for 13-weeks.

A motion was made by Blythe with a second by Walker to approve the deposit of \$2,300,000 into a 13-week CDAR's account. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 0 – Absent: Motion Carried: 7-0.

FFA Farm Plot Lease: Detherage stated that Ryan Wilhite is interested in extending his lease on the FFA farm ground. He stated the lease is for 6.5 +/- acres at a rate of \$3,415 per year. (about \$525 per acre).

A motion was made by Gebhardt with a second by Blythe to extend Ryan Wilhite's lease on the FFA farm ground for one year in the amount of \$3,415 per year. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 0 – Absent: Motion Carried: 7-0.

Final/Amended FY26 Budget Hearing Date/Time: Superintendent Gladu stated we need to set our final amended budget hearing for our Fiscal Year 2026 budget. She recommended to set the date for the budget hearing for June 23, 2026.

A motion was made by Dowell with a second by Detherage to set the amended/final Fiscal Year 2026 budget hearing for June 23, 2026 at 6pm. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 0 – Absent: Motion Carried: 7-0.

Forever and Ever Images: Superintendent Gladu stated last year we switched to this company. She also stated the district does not make any money from pictures, the district is not charged for pictures, it is a service the district offers to the parents.

Burt asked if we have had any issues and Hopper responded no.

A motion was made by Burt with a second by Deitrich to approve the two-year contract through June 30, 2028 with Forever and Ever Images as the district's photographer for student and activity photos. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 0 – Absent: Motion Carried: 7-0.

Mini-Split Pre-K Room: Detherage stated that when the new Pre-K room was designed the HVAC system was not moved/altered. He stated that the room gets extremely hot in the Spring/Summer and cold in the Winter. He stated that Michael would like to install a mini-split in the room. He stated that it is "like activity" under the HLS code so an application for a permit will have to be submitted along with the appropriate construction documents. The architect has agreed to submit these required permits.

A motion was made by Detherage with a second by Dowell to accept the bid from Arnold Brother's in the amount of \$8,228. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 0 – Absent: Motion Carried: 7-0.

Technology Support Contract: Superintendent Gladu stated our contract with QNS expires in June. She stated the we have worked with QNS for over 10 years. She stated that Heart Technologies installed our camera system. Heart is more expensive.

Burt asked if we have had any issues with QNS. Superintendent Gladu stated no they are here when we need them. She also stated that when we have had urgent issues they are quick to respond. Dowell stated that they are \$10,000 cheaper.

A motion was made by Detherage with a second by Gebhardt to approve the technology Managed Service Agreement with QNS for 3 years in the amounts of \$25,910.74 for year 2026/2027, \$26,817.61 for 2027/2028, and \$27,756.23 for 2028/2029. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell –

yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 0 – Absent:
Motion Carried: 7-0.

Reports:

Board Committee: None

Board Members: Deitrich asked if she could get some clarification about the curriculum changes for Kindergarten. Hopper and Superintendent Gladu stated no changes have been made.

Burt asked how things have been going with band and choir. Hopper stated that we have had the same sub in there and it is going well. Detherage asked if there have been any applicants. Superintendent Gladu stated two people have been interviewed but there are no recommendations for the board. Detherage asked how many positions have been posted. Superintendent Gladu stated that there is a posting for the Title position, Special Education and Music.

Principal: Hopper stated that the Science Olympiad Team placed 3rd at WIU and have qualified to compete as a team at State. It is in Champaign at the University of Illinois on Saturday, April 18th. He stated that the team placed top 4 in 18 of the 23 events. He stated that for the 3rd quarter attendance incentive the Elementary are going to WIU to watch The Wizard of Oz performance and the Junior High students will be playing board games and watching March Madness in the afternoon to go along with the state testing theme. He stated that most students get to participate so it seems as though the incentives are helping attendance.

Athletic Director: He stated the 8th Grade Girls Basketball team was invited to the State Capitol on March 18th by Norrine Hammond to be recognized for the Back to Back State Championships. He stated that Track started on March 17th and their first meet is March 30th. Detherage asked if a lot of students went out for track. Hopper stated there is a decent amount.

Transportation: There are no issues and all is going well.

Superintendent: Superintendent Gladu stated construction is set to start the end of April or beginning of May. They will start the bathrooms after the basketball camp. She stated all interior work by next year. There will be a foreman on-sight daily. She stated they will meet once a month to check on progress. Superintendent Gladu stated they were given an option to have logos on the floors and tables. Dowell asked how they hold up. Superintendent Gladu stated she was concerned about fading. She also stated she has never seen these in person but she can ask how they hold up. Gebhardt asked if there was any type of warranty. Superintendent Gladu stated that ISBE called and they will be at the school April 16th and 17th for the food service inspection. Superintendent Gladu stated that Michelle Detherage and Niki Pence were team members of the month for January and February. She also stated we have two candidates that will be interviewing for the Title I position.

A motion was made by Detherage with a second by Blythe to adjourn the March 24, 2026 board meeting at 8:31pm. (voice vote)


Board President


Board Secretary

4-21-26
Date Approved